

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4-5 are amended. Claim 2 is cancelled. Claims 1, 4, and 5 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 2, 4, and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, in the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 4, and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 4, and 5 include allowable subject matter. In this amendment, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Additionally, claims 4 and 5 are rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the Applicants submit each independent claim (claims 1, 4, and 5) are now in condition for allowance since each independent claim includes subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. The Applicants further submit claim 3 is likewise allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

Claim Objections

As indicated above, claims 2, 4, and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Also as indicated above, the Examiner asserted that claims 2, 4, and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. In this amendment claim 2 has been cancelled with the limitations thereof being included in claim 1. In addition, claims 4 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims. In light of the

aforementioned claim amendments, the Applicants submit the grounds for objecting to claims 2, 4, and 5 are now moot. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the objections to claims 2, 4, and 5 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Great Britain application no. 996,056 to Galbraith ("Galbraith"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although the Applicants do not believe claim 1 is anticipated by Galbraith, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2 thereby rendering the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) moot.

For at least the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 1, and all claims which depend thereon, under 35 U.S.C §102(b), as being anticipated by Galbraith be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Galbraith in view of U.S. Patent 4,135,080 to Wells ("Wells"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Therefore, the Applicants submit claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. The Applicants further submit claim 3 is in condition for allowance over the combination of Galbraith and Wells at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

For at least the reasons presented above, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C §103(a), as being obvious over the combination of Galbraith and Wells be withdrawn.

<Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank>

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant hereby petitions for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$1,110.00 extension fee herewith.

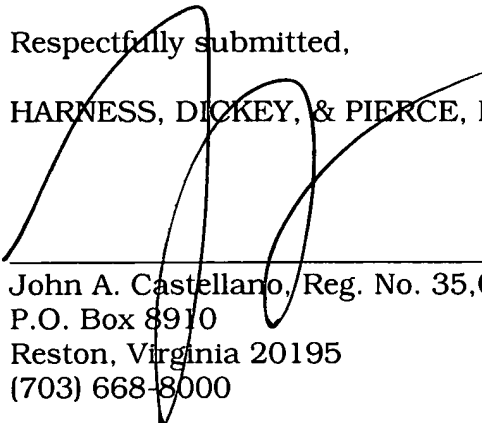
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/DMB:eaf
DAB